

peace. As with the domestic opening, this too proved fleeting and illusory. Tentative Syrian cooperation in the opening months of the campaign against al Qaeda after 9/11 did not last and, in 2005, Syrian intelligence officers joined with Hezbollah in murdering Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and provoking a war with Israel in the summer of 2006. In Iraq, Syria worked with Iran to supply arms to radical Shiite militias, even as the country sought to join its ally in the pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Now the Assad regime has turned on its own people, who have been inspired by their fellow Arabs in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere to rise up to demand their rights. As Americans and as the custodians of a great democracy that was forged in revolution, we have a special obligation to support and nurture the aspirations of others who seek to secure for themselves and their posterity the blessings of liberty.

We in Congress must use every diplomatic and economic tool at our disposal to end this dictatorship and I urge President Obama to support the Syrian people in their quest for an end to the corruption and brutality in the Assad regime.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THREE VETERAN MONUMENTS

HON. MARY BONO MACK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mrs. BONO MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three Veteran monuments in my hometown of Palm Springs, California—the “Desert Fliers Command Distinguished Flying Cross Wall of Honor,” “On A Wing and A Prayer Missing Man Monument,” and “Freedom.”

The “Desert Fliers Command Distinguished Flying Cross Wall of Honor” was dedicated on November 11, 2004, and is located at the Palm Springs Air Museum. The Desert Fliers Command is a group of airmen who now live in the Coachella Valley and have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in air combat. This stunning black marble monument stands nearly seventeen feet and has two wings engraved with the name and rank of the Desert Fliers Command members, branch of service and rank. It sits in the center of a twelve-foot round platform named the “Walk of Honor” in which there are bricks etched with names of fallen airmen.

The “On a Wing and a Prayer Missing Man Monument” was dedicated on November 11, 2006, and is located at the entrance of Gate 1 at the Palm Springs International Airport. This beautiful monument, which is an actual wing of a Navy Aircraft, stands straight up with one side of the wing listing the names of the members of the Desert Fliers Command. The wing tip light is lit at all times and is named the “Eternal Light.” It is intended to serve as a beacon for all missing airmen to find their way home.

The “Freedom” monument was dedicated on November 11, 2010, and is located at the Palm Springs Air Museum. It is the actual propeller of a World War II B-24 Aircraft standing atop a twenty-four inch base that recognizes each branch of service, as well as Distinguished Flying Cross recipient Joseph Foster,

Lieutenant Colonel United States Air Force Retired.

The artists who inspired and created these important monuments are Lee Stanley—Lieutenant Commander United States Naval Reserve Retired, recipient of two Distinguished Flying Crosses and nine Air Medals—and his loving wife Pita.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope these memorials serve as powerful reminders of how our nation's liberty and justice has been preserved by the dedication of our armed forces. May their patriotic spirit and devotion to our nation continue to inspire Americans for generations to come. While no single tribute can fully honor their sacrifice, these memorials offer a chance for our community to stand together in honoring the men and women who have fought under the Stars and Stripes. It is with great pride that I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing these important Veteran memorials.

TRIBUTE TO THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTH FLINT TABERNACLE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 15th, the South Flint Tabernacle will celebrate 80 years of bringing the Word of God to the people of Genesee County. The congregation will join together on that day to express their gratitude for the multiple blessings bestowed upon them by Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Reverend John McLaughlin founded South Flint Tabernacle in 1931. Several months later he turned the church over to Reverend Albert A. Abbey. Reverend Abbey remained as the pastor for the next 35 years. During this time the church relocated to its current site in Burton, Michigan. Due to an expanding congregation the church is planning to relocate to a larger facility in the near future. The Reverend Robert E. Henson has been the Pastor since 1979. Our community has grown spiritually because of Pastor Henson. I am a beneficiary of his deep faith and love of God and his creatures.

The dynamic congregation is active in over 50 different types of ministry including Home Friendship Groups. South Flint Tabernacle's Statement of Purpose is to pray, proclaim the Word of God, to win and mature disciples of Jesus Christ. Through their commitment to exalting Jesus Christ through lifestyle, worship and ministry, the congregation grows stronger in their relationship with God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating South Flint Tabernacle as they celebrate 80 years of spiritual, meaningful, inspirational worship and ministry. The vibrant prayer life of this congregation has made South Flint Tabernacle a landmark in the community. I pray they continue to spread the Word of God through their prayers, actions, example, ministry and worship for many, many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on May 5, 2011, I inadvertently cast a “yea” vote for H.R. 1230. I intended to vote “nay.”

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. BYRON J. GROSS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Byron J. Gross for his exceptional military service to the United States during World War II. On May 25th, 2011, the Honor Flight program will recognize Dr. Gross along with other World War II veterans at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC for answering the call of service to our country in a time of dire peril.

In 1942, when his country needed him, Dr. Gross did not hesitate—he left his private dental practice and immediately joined the Army medical corps. In the service, he went above and beyond his assigned duties, demonstrating extraordinary patriotism and a tireless commitment to service. He was recognized for his outstanding achievements and promoted to Captain before his honorable discharge in 1946.

Dr. Gross was initially stationed stateside in Wyoming at Ft. Francis E. Warren. He then transferred to Camp Phillips in Salina, Kansas where, in addition to his regular duties in the dental clinic, he was a bivouac officer. In 1943, Dr. Gross was sent overseas to treat enlisted personnel and officers, as well as supervise the set-up, personnel, and day-to-day operations of dental laboratories based in England, France, and Germany.

Once stationed in England, Dr. Gross witnessed the devastating blitzkrieg of London which literally shook the Cumberland hotel where he was billeted with other military personnel. He vividly recalls witnessing, on D-Day, the swarms of American planes flying over Grimm's Ditch near Stonehenge in route to Germany. He remembers the sky appearing black as a seemingly never-ending wave of warplanes and airplanes towing gliders headed toward their appointed bombing mission.

The momentousness of the events in which Dr. Gross and the other servicemen and women took place cannot be overstated. Quite simply, they saved the world. We owe them a debt that can never be repaid.

Dr. Gross completed his tour of duty in 1946 and returned to the United States, where he resumed his private practice until he retired in 1990 at age 75. He is currently living in St. Louis and will turn 97 on this July 4th—a date which uniquely symbolizes his enduring love for his country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dr. Gross for his tremendous patriotism and courage during such an important moment in history. I ask my colleagues to join me now in thanking him for his service to his country.